

# Governor Rallies Nebraskans in Tornado-Stricken Areas



Governor's visit brought tears to Hohndorf's eyes . . . Mrs. Hohndorf (left), Governor, Hohndorf and a neighbor.

## Wolbach Students Give Him Ovation

By Don Shasteen

Governor Morrison rallied Nebraskans Wednesday "to rise out of the debris."

His words of encouragement came after he toured a section of East-Central Nebraska that was struck by a series of tornadoes Tuesday evening.

His visit brought tears from one farmer whose home was destroyed.

And it brought cheers from persons attending a special school convocation at Wolbach, the only town in the tornado alley that suffered extensive damage.

"If the people unite in a spirit of co-operation to rise out of the debris, this can be built into an even better town than it was before."

That was the Governor's challenge to the 390 citizens of the Greeley County community.

"I would like to see this community make a renewed effort to build an even better town," he said. Students and town officials gave him a standing ovation.

No Handouts Promised

The Governor led a contingent of National Guard officers and newsmen on a tour by helicopter.

He asked Wolbach Mayor Harold Coe to "get the City Council together, come down to Lincoln and discuss with us what can be done."

To the grade and high school students gathered in the school gymnasium, the Governor declared:

"Don't be discouraged because of obstacles or setbacks you get in life because these can be just the little added stimuli you need to achieve bigger and better things."

The Governor made a clear that he wasn't promising Government handouts, but pledging "to work with you."

"I'm a firm believer that people shouldn't shed their responsibilities on other people," the Governor told the convocation.

55 Places Damaged

"I find a lot of adults who want the Government to solve their problems for them. That isn't good. Government agencies are not for the purpose of thinking for people, but to work with them."

Maj. P. B. Carpenter, Kearney, in charge of troops moved into the Wolbach area Tuesday night, told the Governor that a minimum of 25 business

buildings and 30 to 35 homes suffered extensive damage.

The business buildings included two grocery stores and markets, a hotel, bank, hardware store, drug store, feed store, barber shop, lumber yard, grain elevator, furniture store, cafe, two taverns, both the old and the new Postoffice, two service stations, blacksmith shop and garage.

Damage in rural areas was also extensive.

81 Farms Hit

A National Guard summary showed 81 farms destroyed or extensively damaged.

Returning to Lincoln, Governor Morrison conferred with State Insurance Director Frank Barrett.

Mr. Barrett said he is contacting all companies authorized to write insurance in the state, asking their co-operation. He also asked the companies to send claims representatives as soon as possible.

Norman Otto, Nebraska branch manager for the Small Business Administration, had two field men—Maurice Costello and Bob Pinkerton, both of Omaha—surveying the damage area.

Mr. Otto noted that the SBA is authorized to make three per cent loans running up to 20 years to rehabilitate businesses or homes hit by disaster. The agency does not require collateral but takes into account ability to repay.

Nebraska's Primary

Sample Ballots Inside

Sample ballots for Nebraska's May 12 primary election are printed on Pages 42 and 43.

### Inside

Postoffice doesn't have a roof but Wolbach's injured Postmaster continues her duties. Page 8

Benedict farmer survives second tornado in less than a week. Page 8

York General Hospital used classroom as temporary emergency ward. Page 8

Pictures by Pat Hall and Tom Allan. Page 14

Decision to leave car saved lives of three Grand Island men. Page 8

"Where do I start?" asks Bradshaw farmer after looking at rubble in his farm yard. Page 8

Wind sweeps farmhouse away, replaces it with combine. Page 3

Lindsay farmer reports he had a high skyride; escaped uninjured. Page 8

Eleven tornado victims still hospitalized. Page 8

## Storms Leave Trail of Ruin

State Releases List of Twister Damage

Lincoln (AP) — The State Adjutant General's office Wednesday released a summary of tornado injuries and damage.

The breakdown:

- Wolbach, three injured, damage not listed.
- St. Edward, one injured, four homes destroyed.
- Bradshaw, two killed, 23 farms severely damaged, extensive power line damage.
- Shelby, two farms destroyed, one slight injury, two trucks slightly damaged and power lines moderately damaged.
- Stromsburg area, two injured, slight farm damage.
- One mile west of David City, minor injuries.
- Hastings, minor injuries and rail cars derailed.
- Four miles south of Stromsburg, two injured.
- Four miles west of Harvard, 20 injured (two hospitalized), power lines down.
- Seven miles north of Harvard, five injured, three farms destroyed.
- Osceola, in Polk County, 16 injured, 10 farms destroyed, power line damage extensive.
- Tilden, light roof damage to homes.
- Bellwood and Butler County, six farms destroyed, nine severely damaged and 90 power poles destroyed.
- Benedict area, four farms damaged.
- Rising City area, four farms destroyed.
- One mile west of Meadow Grove, two farms slightly damaged.
- Seven miles west of Belgrade, slight damage to farms.
- Eight miles east of Hampton, 14 farms destroyed and 11 damaged.
- Prague, livestock and eight farms slightly damaged.

The reports were not complete.

Governor Morrison called out National Guard units to assist local authorities. The project was named "Operation Twisters."

A total of 225 guardsmen were on duty in York, Bradshaw, Benedict, Tilden, Rising City, Bellwood, Norfolk, St. Edward, Osceola and Lincoln Wednesday.

## Nixon Talks Here Tonight

Brotherhood Speech to Be Non-Political

Nearly 13 hundred persons are preparing to eat prime rib of Nebraska beef, see Gen. Thomas S. Power, Strategic Air Command chief, receive a national award and hear a talk by former Vice-President Richard M. Nixon tonight in the City Auditorium Arena.

The National Conference of Christians and Jews Brotherhood dinner, at 25 dollars a plate, is scheduled at 7 p. m.

The former Vice-President told John Jarrell of The World-Herald's Washington Bureau he is to arrive at Eppley Airfield in the early evening and go directly to his hotel to change for the dinner.

Mr. Nixon told Mr. Jarrell his Auditorium talk will be "completely non-political."

He said he accepted the engagement several months ago and was not aware that it fell just before the Nebraska primary.

But the unsuccessful candidate for the Presidency in 1960—who is receiving some support for the GOP nomination this year—said that he will hold a press conference here Friday morning.

"I there are any political questions then, I'll answer them," he declared.

Temperatures

Readings Taken at Eppley Airfield

Time	Temp.	Wind	Humidity
Noon	76	7 p. m.	75
1 p. m.	77	8 p. m.	76
2 p. m.	78	9 p. m.	77
3 p. m.	79	10 p. m.	78
4 p. m.	80	11 p. m.	79
5 p. m.	81	12 p. m.	80
6 p. m.	82	1 p. m.	81
7 p. m.	83	2 p. m.	82
8 p. m.	84	3 p. m.	83
9 p. m.	85	4 p. m.	84
10 p. m.	86	5 p. m.	85
11 p. m.	87	6 p. m.	86

## 5 in Farm Family 'Floated' as Wind Smashed Home

Shelby, Neb. (UPI)—One of the farms hardest hit by the Tuesday evening tornadoes was the Wilbert (Joe) Hohndorf place three miles northeast of here.

Mr. Hohndorf, his wife and three children said they escaped injury as they lay on the floor while the wind smashed their house.

"It felt just like we were floating," Mr. Hohndorf said Wednesday as Governor Morrison and state civil defense officials stopped here on a helicopter tour of the disaster area.

Mr. Hohndorf said that just before the storm struck he "peeked out the door and saw some stuff flying. I hovered at everybody to hit the floor."

The twisting winds demolished the house and the other farm buildings.



Shelby High School boys . . . aid in clean-up at Rafert farm.

## Farmer Can Smile: Tornado Left Us the Land

By Tom Allan

Shelby, Neb.—Farmer Bob Rafert, 32, Wednesday surveyed his demolished farmstead, the birthplace of Arjay Miller, Ford Motor Company president.

Barns and sheds were gone, the old house was tipped from its foundation and churned into rubble. The windmill pump had been sucked from the gaping well and its tower and fan were scattered. Some livestock lay dead or dying.

His car was smashed against a tree, a truck was overturned, most of his farm machinery was battered and buried in debris.

Bob's head was daubed with red antiseptic where he was clobbered by falling bricks when the walls of the basement toppled in on him and his wife and three daughters.

Lucky, the shaggy old family dog found unhurt atop the family when the Tuesday evening tornado swept past, was plastered with mud.



Windmill pump at Ford President's birthplace ripped from well . . . blades in debris of old home at rear.

## Cloudy Sky for Midlands

Highs Predicted From 65 to 75 Degrees

Partly cloudy skies will characterize the Midlands today, with high temperatures ranging from 65 to 75, the Weather Bureau said.

Mild temperatures and dry air are expected for the next five days.

Heavy rain was reported Tuesday and early Wednesday. More than two inches fell at Walthill, Dodge, Aurora and Osceola, Neb., and three inches at Hartley, Ia.

Rainfall reports:

Location	Amount
Omaha	1.11
Beatrice	1.28
St. Omaha	1.28
Bloomington	1.28
Nebraska	1.28
Grand Island	1.28
Scottsbluff	1.28
Chadron	1.28
Lincoln	1.28
Offutt AFB	1.28
Wayne	1.28
West Point	1.28
Lyons	1.28
Dodge	1.28
Mead, Grove	1.28
Aurora	1.28
DeS Moines	1.28

Iowa

Location	Amount
Spencer	1.21
Sioux City	1.21
Macon City	1.21
Wadena	1.21
Clarinda	1.21
Corning	1.21
Greenfield	1.21
Randolph	1.21
Red Oak	1.21
Mount Ayr	1.21
Laurie	1.21
Clatsop	1.21
Dickens	1.21

Additional Nebraska reports from the Lincoln Telephone and Telegraph Company:

Location	Amount
Ashland	1.18
Genoa	1.18
Humboldt	1.18
Lincoln	1.18
Sioux Falls	1.18
Seward	1.18
Superior	1.18

"It sure took everything," Bob said.

Then with a grin: "But we are lucky. We are all alive and it didn't get the dirt. We've still got the land."

He could also be thankful for his neighbors and Shelby town folk.

They'd rushed over to help. Some dug through the debris to get the few family possessions that remained. Others stood guard all night.

Wednesday morning a Shelby school bus pulled into the yard and out piled a dozen husky boys and a couple of teachers to lend a hand.

High school had been dismissed so the school's 50 boys, divided into teams, could help storm victims.

Even Lucky had one reason to be happy.

Everybody was calling him "lucky Lucky."

MOVE INTO a home of your own this spring. See the World-Herald "Homes for Sale" Want Ads for a complete listing of homes and locations available. —Adv.